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Limited campus tours resume for admitted students

By IDEAL DOWLING
Local Editor

Middlebury began offering campus tours for admitted students and their families beginning on April 27. Previously, no visitors — including prospective students — were permitted to enter college buildings and grounds.

Dean of Admissions Nicole Curvin addressed an email to faculty, staff and students on April 26 notifying them that the college was resuming tours. But due to an error in communications, most current students did not receive the message until a second email was sent the following day. College Director of Media Relations Sarah Ray clarified that the announcement was posted on the college's website on April 26.

The college decided to reopen tours following an update in the Vermont Department of Health guidelines. Revisions to the state's Safe and Healthy Return to Campus plan permitted a limited number of visits to campus.

"We have been monitoring the guidelines pretty closely and have a group that meets daily to discuss how Vermont guidelines are changing and what that means for us as a community," Curvin said. "It became clear that one of the new possibilities was bringing campus tours back."

There will be a maximum of six tours per day, each limited to one family and not exceeding four persons in total. Visitors are expected to adhere to Vermont state health guidelines, which require full vaccination (14 days past the final dose), a negative test result from within three days prior to entering the state or having recovered from Covid-19 within the past three months with no current symptoms.

Additionally, tours have been adjusted to maximize safety precautions, including shortening tours from their typical length of upwards of an hour and a half to a maximum of one hour, requiring face masks and physical distancing throughout, running tours exclusively outdoors and restricting families from interacting with community members other than their tour guide and other admissions representatives.

According to Curvin, the Admissions Office felt that allowing even a small number of families to visit campus was extremely important given how challenging college enrollment decisions can be for students.

Until now, in lieu of in-person tours, the Admissions Office increased its virtual initiatives to introduce prospective students to the college with events such as an Instagram Live campus tour, short TikTok segments showing the campus and webinars during which admittees could engage with faculty and staff.

"We feel really good about the connections we have made virtually and are grateful to expand access through the virtual programming," Curvin said.

Nevertheless, these programs are not the same as seeing the campus in person.

"We are very cognizant that a big part of figuring out a college search is walking around the place you might call home for the next four years," Senior Admissions Fellow Abbott LaPrade '21 said.

The college's decision to reopen tours serves, at least in part, as an effort to curb illicit visits. Students reported sightings of people who appeared to be families of prospective students walking around campus, sometimes without masks, and taking photos. Some even

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Hundreds of students gather for vigil honoring Daunte Wright

VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Hundreds gathered outside on the McCullough lawn on April 24 to honor the life of Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo and other victims of police brutality. The vigil was organized by Jarlenys Mendez '23 and included speeches and multiple moments of silence.

By RACHEL LU
Staff Writer

More than 200 students gathered outside on the McCullough lawn the evening of April 24 to honor the life of Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo and other victims of police brutality. Huddled under umbrellas and rain jackets, they sheltered their candles from the cold drizzle as they listened to speeches and observed multiple moments of silence in honor of the lives lost.

Jarlenys Mendez '23 spearheaded the vigil to hold space on campus for students mourning the life of Daunte Wright.

"There's so little chance we get to stop and pause to show respect and honor for the victims," Mendez said in an interview with The Campus. "Especially with how fast-paced the school moves, it's important to take a pause to recognize the real world and not be stuck in the Middlebury bubble."

Across the country, protesters have poured onto streets to express anger and demand justice for Wright. Mendez was actively involved in protests in New York City for the Black Lives Matter movement, and she was inspired to pursue activism at Middlebury.

Daunte Wright's funeral was held on April 22, where he was remembered as an outgoing young man and the father of a two-year-old toddler. Mendez, whose own father was 19 years old when she was born, said the event hit close to home for her emotionally.

"Seeing his child was definitely painful," Mendez said. "And to think that at that age to lose your life and leave your child behind you. I'm just sick of it. Each time I hear about another victim — it's a lot."

Genesis Rodriguez '23, who attended the vigil, said the atmosphere was heavy with the mourning shared between the students. To Rodriguez, it is the responsibility of Middlebury students to acknowledge the events happening in the world.

"We're in such a privileged space, so it feels necessary to show up for these issues," Rodriguez said. "These might be conversations I have with my friends, [but], in general they are not talked about on campus."

Although the number of white students at the vigil outweighed the number of students of color, Mendez hoped that such a reality did not drown out the presence of BIPOC students at the event — who she said needed the space for healing.

"White people tend to make a lot of things about them, and this vigil wasn't for white people to feel better. It's not for them to show they're here for us. It's never about the white people," said Mendez, "I hope they can step aside and acknowledge what is happening, internally and physically by being there."

Invitation of anti-transgender speaker sparks backlash, internal club conflict

By ABIGAIL CHANG
Senior News Editor

At the height of midterm season, 50 people joined a Zoom webinar titled "Can We Reasonably Believe in God?" featuring Christian apologetic and Boston College professor Peter Kreeft. The event became a source of controversy after students — both inside and outside of Newman Catholic Club, which organized the event with co-sponsorships from the Department of Religion, Middlebury College Activities Board and Middlebury InterVarsity Christian Fellowship* — discovered Kreeft's views about the transgender community.

In an interview with The Catholic Sun — which he gave before speaking about "transgenderism" at a fundraiser for the John Paul II Resource Center for Theology of the Body and Culture — Kreeft compared a desire for gender reassignment surgery to a desire to torture or murder.

"The mind is not mutilated by educating it to accept its body," he said in the interview. "The attitude toward one's own body that is behind the demand for gender reassignment surgery is exactly the same as the attitude toward someone else's body that is behind torture or murder."

Tensions on campus also mounted when Newman Club president Pedro Guizar '22 referred to inactive members as having "gone rogue" or "anti-Kreeft" in an email response that was accidentally sent to the entirety of the club's membership. In the fallout, several students criticized Guizar's email and asked to be removed from the mailing list.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Anaïs Mitchell '04, a Tony-award winning playwright and musician, will give the 2021 Middlebury commencement address. Mitchell is the creator of the acclaimed Broadway musical "Hadestown", and was named one of the most influential people of 2020 by Time Magazine.

LOCAL

Behind Sunday Tacos, Alejandra savors home from Mexico to Middlebury

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
News Editor

Stuck on campus for the entire semester, many students long for home-cooked meals and the warm smile of someone preparing food just for them. Alejandra's Tacos supplies both, accepting orders for tamales, empanadas, tacos and more.

The go link go/sundaytacos leads to a sign-up form for Alejandra's email list. And the menu, which goes out to her email list Friday evenings, changes each week. Alejandra makes the deliveries Sunday at 12:30 p.m. at the drop-off shed in front of 75 Shannon Street.

Alejandra prioritizes affordable prices over profit — $3 for each item on her campus menu — because, above all else, she wants to be able to share the joy of her cooking and culture with those around her.

"I was born poor, and I'm sure I will die poor as well," Alejandra said. "I'm never going to be a millionaire, but that's not my goal. I have a different, more human goal: to create bonds, to give a little bit of Mexico to those who don't know her, and, for my countrymen, to give them a dish that makes them remember their mother, their home, their grandmother. That's what I want, and that's what makes me happy."

Alejandra makes all of her food by hand, including the flavorful salsas that accompany each order of tacos and the corn masa shells encasing each empanada. Students can order for a Sunday lunch or stock up on items like tamales to pop in the microwave for a delicious meal throughout the week whenever dining hall food isn't quite doing it for them.

In addition to now selling food to Middlebury students, Alejandra sells a wider variety of dishes out of her home in Addison County each Sunday and prepares meals for migrant workers on a daily basis. She hopes to continue to grow her business and save up enough money to eventually return to Mexico.

Alejandra first immigrated to the U.S. in 2009 from her hometown, Querétaro, in central Mexico, joining her father in North Carolina. He owned a Mexican restaurant and taught her how to cook when she was not working her job at the paper factory. Within a year, her father moved back to Mexico to be with her mother, and Alejandra moved to Vermont, where she struggled to adjust. The cold came as a brutal shock to Alejandra, who had never seen snow before. She spent her first winter stuck inside her house, unable

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NEWS

Proctor Crush Lists go virtual through senior computer science project
By MAGGIE REYNOLDS

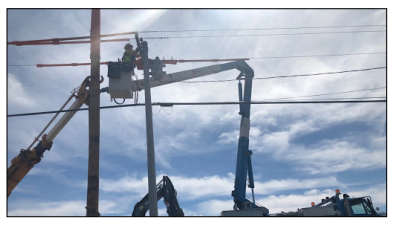
From the 'Covid supply guy' to line monitors at Proc: Staff and student workers keep
By JULIA PEPPER

Divergent Learners Collective advocates for academic accessibility
By OLIVIA MUELLER

LOCAL

Rotary Club donates $10,000 to Kickstart Middlebury
By LUCY TOWNEND

Vermont Electric plans for carbon neutrality by 2023, renewable energy by 2030
By JACK SUMMERSBY



ARTS & CULTURE

Midd MAY-hem Drag Show celebrates queerness at Middlebury
By REGINA FONTENELLI

Proc 'n' Roll: Music jazzes up mealtimes at Proctor Dining Hall
By OLIVIA MUELLER

Forecasting with Addison County's Weather Watcher
By CHARLIE KEOHANE

OPINION

Staff are not responsible for your to-go containers
By the EDITORIAL BOARD

SPORTS

Seifer's Scoop 18: Bochu Ding '21, rower and Editor in Chief
By BLAISE SIEFER

Women's soccer walks on TAM for eating disorder awareness
By MIKE SEGEL